



State of Connecticut
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Good morning Representative Guerrero, Senator DeFronzo, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Diana Urban, State Representative from the 43rd District. I am here today to testify in favor of HB 6137, An Act Implementing a National Alcohol Voluntary Exclusion List.

No one wants to experience what the Deglin family went through or what the parents of the beautiful talented Conn College student killed on I 395 are presently going through.

Drunk drivers take life indiscriminately, maiming and killing our loved ones and leaving family members to ask "Why?" and "What could have been done to prevent this tragedy?"

The National Alcohol Voluntary Exclusion List (NAVEL) is an entrepreneurial low cost approach to mitigate this problem. The idea is deceptively simple. Ask people convicted of drunk driving as a condition of their sentence to voluntarily put themselves on a list that is distributed to all establishments either serving or selling liquor. This list will be available electronically and can be bar coded on the driver's license. The establishments would then use a low cost machine to swipe all patrons' licenses to see if they appear on the NAVEL list. If their name did show up, they would be refused alcohol service or sale (and also could be reported back to the court system for their attempt to violate the condition of their release). The length of time the person remains on the list would be determined by the courts. In the case of under age drinking the person could be put on the list (voluntarily) upon reaching the age of 21.

The proponent of the system is here to testify and will be glad to supply details and cost numbers but I would also like to mention another potential use of the system.

Presently if a person is drunk, a bar owner can cut him/her off. But oftentimes the person just goes to another bar and it can take time (and more drinks) before the next bar owner realizes that the patron is drunk.

The NAVEL system could also be used by the bars in this manner: a bar owner cuts a person off and immediately enters that into the system, the patron leaves and goes to another bar where he/she is carded and the cut off from Bar #1 shows up on the system and the bar owner refuses to serve the person (and might even call the police if he believes that the person will be driving).

I realize that this system has some issues that need to be worked out and I hope that input from this public hearing will be helpful. I also feel that this kind of small business entrepreneurial approach should be encouraged and I thank the Chairs for bringing this to a public hearing.